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December 24, 2003

04V-015 ①of③

**VIA FACSIMILE AND  
CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Mr. George H. Person  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Attention: Office of Defects Investigation  
400 Seventh Street, S.W. NSA-11  
Washington, D.C. 20590

2004 JAN 05 P 10:00  
1000

**RE: Dutchmen Manufacturing, Inc. Recall  
Defect and Non-Compliance Report**

Dear Mr. Person:

Our firm is general counsel for Dutchmen Manufacturing, Inc. ("Dutchmen"), a manufacturer of travel trailers and fifth wheel trailers located in Goshen, Indiana. On behalf of Dutchmen, we are hereby notifying the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that certain Dutchmen trailers may contain a defect, which has been determined by Dutchmen to be safety related.

**A. Manufacturer; Identification of Vehicles.**

The manufacturer is Dutchmen Manufacturing, Inc., 305 Steury Avenue, Goshen, Indiana 46526. Dutchmen has determined that the defect may be present on certain 2001 through 2004 model year travel trailers that contain Suburban model furnaces and that were manufactured at Dutchmen's Syracuse, Indiana facility during the period from June, 2000 through November, 2003. The total number of trailers subject to this recall is 6,172. At the present time, Dutchmen has only identified two trailers that contain the defect. Based upon its initial investigation, Dutchmen is not aware of any other trailers that contain the defect. However, Dutchmen has decided to conduct this recall campaign as a precautionary measure.

B. Recall Population.

Dutchmen has determined that the recall population is limited to the 2001 through 2004 models that contain the Suburban model furnaces and that were manufactured at Dutchmen's facilities located in Syracuse, Indiana, during the period from June, 2000 through November, 2003. Trailers containing other furnace models or that were manufactured at other Dutchmen facilities during this period do not contain the potential defect.

C. Defect Description.

The potential defect involves the lack of a furnace exhaust vent for the Suburban model furnaces installed on the trailers. The lack of the exhaust vent allows furnace combustion products containing carbon monoxide fumes to vent into the trailer rather than to the exterior of the trailer, which could result in serious injury or death to the occupants of the trailer. This potential risk arises only in the event that the furnace is in use.

D. Remedying of Defect.

The program to be implemented by Dutchmen to remedy the defect will include notification to all known registered owners of the subject trailers, included but not limited to all dealers with such trailers in stock. Owners will be instructed to visually check for the presence of the exhaust vent by observing two ports and the words "Suburban" and "Dayton, TN" stamped on the surface of the metal exhaust plate located on the exterior sides of the trailers. The existence of the ports and the stamped words are unique to the furnace installation and confirm that the furnace exhaust vent has been installed. In addition, the owners will be requested to feel for hot exhaust air escaping from the furnace exhaust vent when the furnace is in operation.

If the exhaust vent is not present or there are any other questions on the operation of the furnace, the owner will be instructed not to use the furnace and to take their trailer to the nearest authorized Dutchmen dealer or service center for repair. Dutchmen's authorized dealers and service centers will be provided written instructions identifying the potential defect and the repair procedure that will need to be undertaken. As will be set forth in the notification letter to be mailed to the registered owners, the defect will be corrected by Dutchmen at no expense to the owner.

E. Owner Notification.

The owner notification letter, return mail postcard, and envelope will be submitted to NHTSA for review and approval before mailing to the customers and dealers.

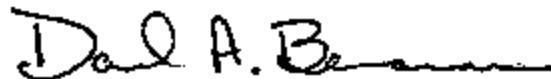
F. Campaign Number.

At this time, Dutchmen does not have a campaign number for this recall. Dutchmen will use the identification number assigned by NHTSA.

Please contact the undersigned at (937) 492-1271 after you have had an opportunity to review the enclosed information. I trust that you will find the enclosed information complies with the NHTSA regulations.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Very truly yours



Daniel A. Bensman

clf

cc: Mr. Rich Florea (via fax)  
Mr. Robert Ries (via fax)  
Mr. Walter L. Bennett (via fax)  
Mr. John M. Garmhausen